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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,785	03/04/2004	Kazumi Nagasawa	040894-7008	5198
9629 7590 06/22/2007 MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP 1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004			EXAMINER CRIBBS, MALCOLM D	
			ART UNIT 2115	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/22/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/791,785	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NAGASAWA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Malcolm D. Cribbs	<b>Art Unit</b> 2115	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

**Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.**

5 **Claims 1-11 are allowed.**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

10 The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

15 Claim 15 recites the limitation "the equipment" in the second line of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

20 The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

25 (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 12-14, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

5 anticipated by Tashiro et al [Publication No. US 2003/0144784].

**As per claim 12**, Tashiro teaches an auxiliary equipment module [Fig. 1 AT ECU 8] having a plurality of electronic components [Fig. 2 sensors, and solenoids; paragraph 0035], and communicating a signal through a common bus [Communication line L of Fig. 1; paragraph 0024] comprising:

a communication unit [Fig. 1, communication 8b], receiving a control signal for controlling the driving of at least one load out of the plurality of electronic components [Paragraph 0026; wherein commands are sent from the manager ECU 10 to the AT ECU 8 through the common bus line L which is connected to the communication units 10b and 8b to control the driving of the solenoids [0033, and 0035]];

a control unit, decoding the control signal, and generating a drive signal for driving the load [solenoid control unit 24; paragraph 0035; wherein the solenoid control unit calculates and determines drive signals ...]; and

a load driving unit, driving the load according to the drive signal [wherein the signal from the solenoid control received by the solenoids are received by a shift solenoid [driving unit] to execute the signal calculated and sent by the solenoid control unit [0026, and 0035]].

**As per claim 13**, Tashiro teaches the invention further comprising an I/O unit, receiving a signal from at least one sensor or at least one switch out of the plurality of electronic components, wherein the control unit generates the drive signal for driving the load according to the signal received from the I/O unit [I/O 8c of Fig. 1].

5

**As per claim 14**, Tashiro teaches the invention wherein the control unit generates a control signal for controlling the driving of a load corresponding to the sensor or the switch according to the signal received from the I/O unit; wherein the communication unit has a function of decoding the control signal; and wherein the  
10 communication unit transmits the control signal to the equipment connected to the corresponding load through the common bus [Paragraphs 0026, and 0035].

**As per claim 16**, Tashiro teaches the invention wherein the common bus is a dedicated communication line [Paragraph 0024; communication line L].

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**As per claim 17**, Tashiro teaches the invention wherein the common bus is a power supply line; and wherein the control signal is transmitted while being superposed on the power supply line.

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**Conclusion**

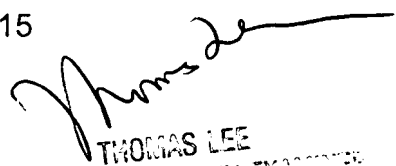
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Malcolm D. Cribbs whose telephone number is 571-272-5689. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-430PM.

5 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for  
10 published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a  
15 USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Malcolm D Cribbs  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2115

20 June 18, 2007  
MC

  
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